

Vacation Guide

Upper Canada Village a living museum



Costumed craftspeople, like Marion Hart, bring Ontario's heritage to life by demonstrating how the early settler lived and worked. (Canadian Government Office of Tourism Photo)

Ontario's history is being taken down from the bookshelves, dusted off and brought to life, thanks to the interpreters, guides and craftspeople at Upper Canada Village.

Historical museums, like Upper Canada Village (11.3 km or 7 miles east of Morrisburg, Ontario), offer visitors a rare glimpse of Canada's early pioneer period.

At the village, the plank sidewalks are lined with mid-19th-century homes, mills, shops, a tavern, church and school. Inside the buildings, antique furnishings and other valuable items are on display. Horse-drawn carriages travel the gravel roadways, teams of oxen plow the fields, and barges navigate the small channel that runs through the village.

But Upper Canada Village is more than a historical museum. For three seasons a year, the village brings Ontario history to life.

Dressed pioneer-style --

women in bonnets and long skirts, men in hats and long-sleeved shirts -- the village staff of 175 explains and demonstrates how early settlers lived and worked.

Wendy Evans, one of the museum's four curators, said there are certain qualities she looks for in the men and women she hires as guides, interpreters and craftspeople.

"I like a big smile, because that tells me the person will work well with the public, and I look for someone who is alert and interested in history."

About 340,000 visitors from all over the world tour Upper Canada Village every year. On a busy summer day, (the village is open spring, summer and fall) as many as 6,500 visitors will pass through the gates.

So it's also important to Wendy that she selects employees who feel comfortable, confident and composed when working with large

crowds.

"I try to hire someone who won't get flustered when thousands of people walk past and ask the same questions over and over," she explained. "It takes someone with stamina and patience."

Once the people are hired, they're sent for training. For three days in May, they meet with veteran village employees (some have worked there 16 years) for a series of workshops, seminars, dis-

cussions and tours. They also study communications techniques to help them work more effectively with the public.

All guides, interpreters and craftspeople are well-versed in the history of Upper Canada Village and the era it represents.

Village staff are pleasant, eager to assist and helpful. Each employee is a well-spring of information, carrying a long list of facts and

details about the village. But if a visitor asks something the staff member can't answer immediately, he or she will do a little research and let the visitor know by letter.

For the past two summers, Barbara Saddler has worked as an interpreter in the one-room school house. Sitting behind her wooden desk, equipped with quill pen, slate and school bell, Barbara explains to visitors what education was like more than a century ago.

Ontario's early school days are of particular interest to Barbara because when she's not working at Upper Canada Village, she's teaching grade school in Peterborough, Ontario.

What Barbara enjoys most about her job are the interesting questions.

"Children are curious about the length of the school day back then and the kinds of punishment naughty kids received," she explained. Adults ask most about teach-

ers' salaries".

Marion Hart, a craftsper-son who has been working at the village since 1961, spins, weaves and dyes wool just as early settlers did.

With spinning wheel at hand, Marion shows visitors the care and work that early Ontario residents undertook when making clothing and handcrafts.

"I am lucky to be doing something I enjoy. In all the years I've been doing this, I've never found it boring. In fact, I do the same thing for a hobby at home."

Marion Hart, Barbara Saddler and the rest of the Upper Canada Village staff are reaching out a friendly hand to visitors by inviting them to participate in Ontario's living history.

For general information about Canada's many historic museums or Canada as a travel destination contact the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0H6.

CTB BUREAU
COCHRANE TRAVEL BUREAU
 711 Main St. North
 Moore Park Plaza
 Georgetown, Ont. L7G 1A3
 Mon. - Wed. 9-6
 Thursday 9-8
 Friday 9-9
 Saturday 9-3
 Tel. Bns. 877-0222
 453-0470

We're with you all the way

Booking with Roos Travel is one thing. After you land we will further assist to help you enjoy a great holiday, from booking a hotel for a few nights to arranging a Rent-a-Car to get you to your holiday destination. Next time you are planning a trip let Root Travel Agency make the arrangements.

roos travel agency
 298 QUELPH ST. GEORGE TOWN, ONT. L7G 4B1 TEL. 877-0138

FARMERS' HOLIDAY TO "SUNNY JAMAICA"

Jan. 28th-Feb. 8th, 1980

Tour Leader: Henry Stanley
 (Agr. Rep for Halton County)

See!!!
 Montego Bay and Area -- 4 days...Ocho Rios -- 5 days, and
 Final 2 days in the Kingston area.

Tours combined with holidays to cover most of this lush, very productive island.

See: Banana -- cocoa, coffee and pineapple plantations.
 See: The growing of rare spices.
 See: Huge sugar cane plantations and sugar mills.
 See: Huge beef cattle ranches and dairy farms.
 Days off to enjoy the white sand beaches and the straw markets etc.

Tour prices \$895.00 ... Book early with:

CLAIRE BURT TRAVEL

21 QUEEN ST. E., BRAMPTON, Ontario L6W 3P1
 Phone: (416) 451-4944 (Collect if Necessary)

ACTON TRAVEL LTD



For all your travel needs

Call Rick Bonnette

853-3580

Acton-Travel Ltd
 56 Mill St. E. Unit C
 L7J 2M2
 PO Box 102